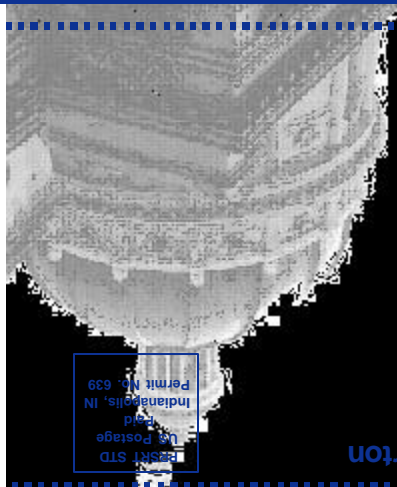


State Representative Woody Burton

A Message from



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State Representative Woody Burton

Room 401, Statehouse
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Easy Access to Your Government

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U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar
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Indianapolis Office
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U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
1-202-224-5623
Indianapolis Office
317-554-0750
Indiana House
1-800-382-9841
Indiana Senate
1-800-382-9467

Office of the Governor
317-232-4567
Secretary of State
317-232-6531
Medicaid Information
317-233-4455
Child Support Helpline
317-233-5437
Department of Education
317-232-6611
Department of Labor
317-232-2655
Indiana Department of Revenue
317-232-2240
Internal Revenue Service
1-800-829-1040



A Message from State Representative Woody Burton

House District 58

Now that the first session of the 113th General Assembly has concluded, it is my privilege to update you on some of the changes to state law that may affect you. This post-session newsletter provides details on the major issues of this session, including the state's biennial budget and our economic development initiatives. You also will find contact information so you may continue to keep me informed of any questions or concerns that you have.

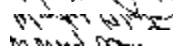
This past session, the Indiana General Assembly passed a \$23 billion budget for the next two years. While it has some good components to it, like a promising economic development package to move Indiana's economy forward, the budget bill is fundamentally flawed and I could not vote for it. Once again, the General Assembly did not fully acknowledge or attempt to correct one of the largest problems that has plagued the state for several years now: irresponsible government spending. Between the fiscal years of 1995 and 2001, state government spending increased by an average of 6.8% a year while revenues only rose at an average of 4.2% annually (inflation rose only 1.8% annually). While state government has favored shifting funds around with accounting tricks, this practice has caught up with us, putting Indiana in an \$800 million deficit at the end of this fiscal year (FY '03). Fiscal responsibility starts with a balanced budget, and this budget is not balanced. It will still have a structural deficit of more than \$500 million at the end of the biennium in 2005.

Cutting unnecessary spending is also a component of fiscal responsibility. The budget bill did lay a framework for a commission composed of people from the private sector, similar to President Reagan's Grace Commission in the 1980s, that will look at state government spending and find ways to cut wasteful use of tax dollars. The commission will not have any elected officials, but will be made up of people from the business, industrial, and labor sectors, as well as people from other areas of our economy. If we do not look at ways to reduce government spending, we will ultimately have to raise taxes, something I am adamantly opposed to. That is why I think this commission is a good place to start.

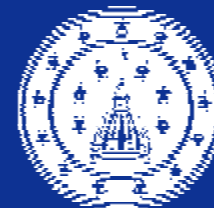
I do not want to paint a bleak picture for the state's fiscal future. Something can be done, and it starts with people like you, and your friends and family contacting your elected officials and telling them you want a change for the good of Indiana.

I hope you take the time to read through this newsletter and find it informative. Remember, I want to respond to issues that are important to you, so please feel free to contact me in the future. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Woody Burton

For more information regarding the 2003 General Assembly, visit www.in.gov/legislative



How to Contact Representative Burton:

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Visit my website to sign up for
e-mail updates and for more
information at:

www.in.gov/H58

Right Track Indiana

To sustain any forward movement in Indiana, balanced budgets and economic growth must go hand in hand. At the onset of this year's session, House Republicans proposed a plan to reverse the past decade of neglect both on the economic and the fiscal fronts. The Right Track Indiana legislative agenda redefines how government works and re-ignites our economic engine. At the conclusion of this year's session, House Republicans made a final push to keep the focus on job creation. We offered a compromise that took the best elements of not just our plan, but those of Senate Republicans, the Governor, and Democrat legislators as well. Elements of that plan include:

- Redesigning Government – Improve the way that Indiana does business, make our state more marketable and set benchmarks for continuous improvement.
- Tax Structure Improvements – To further enhance the Indiana tax code to offer incentives to private investment in both new equipment and skilled employees.
- Strategic Investments – To assist our universities, improve technology infrastructure, assist rural economic development, and provide incentives to retain Indiana's college graduates.
- Targeted Incentives – To support ailing economic sectors and take advantage of special opportunities to create jobs.

Farewell to a Friend



Master Teacher. True Gentleman. Friend of Youth. Those were the words on the sign outside of Shelbyville Middle School. Those words describe my friend, Representative Roland Stine.

On April 24, 2003, Rep. Stine was struck and killed by an alleged drunk driver while returning home after a late night of session at the Statehouse. With emotions running high and the end of a tumultuous legislative session nearing, the entire Statehouse was stunned with news of our friend's death.

A teacher for more than 40 years, he was looking forward to getting back to the classroom on a regular basis after session. Energy, knowledge, and joy overflowed through his personality. It was a better day as soon as I had contact with Roland.

I shared more than just a job with Representative Stine, I shared the human experience. All who knew him, especially his Statehouse colleagues, will miss his quiet disposition, constant smile, and unshakable faith and determination. Although Roland's seat will be filled during the next session of the General Assembly, he will never be replaced.

Education Funding

At the beginning of the 2003 session of the General Assembly, the governor proposed that education spending be flat-lined for the next biennial budget. If the governor's proposal had been implemented, schools in Indiana would have suffered greatly, possibly laying off teachers and postponing technology upgrades, among other things. This idea was unacceptable to me because it would have negatively affected what is most important – our children's education. As the session continued, legislators worked creatively to give schools in Indiana the necessary funding, a difficult feat considering Indiana's annual budget deficit of \$850 million.



Rep. Burton honors Joseph S. Carroll, the new Commander in Chief of the Disabled American Veterans of Indiana, with a resolution.

The final budget approved by the General Assembly increases school operating funding by an average of 3.3 percent in 2004 and 2.9 percent in 2005. The budget will inject \$541 million of additional funding into the operating budgets of Indiana's 293 public school corporations. Higher education will receive more money too, with an increase of 5.3 percent in 2004 and 3.6 percent in 2005, for operations, research and research-oriented facilities.

The new school funding formula provides additional funding to growing school corporations in our state while protecting the funding for schools experiencing enrollment declines. No school will receive less than \$4,350 per student and funding will be based on five factors: children enrolled in the free-lunch program, families in poverty, single-parent families, parents without a high school diploma and children who are learning English as a second language. This funding is provided in recognition of the added cost of educating disadvantaged and at-risk students.

Education remains a number one priority to legislators and we worked hard this session to provide adequate funding for schools. Our children deserve the best educational opportunities possible, even in a struggling economy.

Burton Votes

House Bill 1001: The State Budget Bill

House Vote 61-37. Offers economic development but does nothing to cut government spending. Major Opposition: Unbalanced due to over spending.

Signed into law by the Governor on May 8, 2003.



HB1596: Medicaid Waivers for Autism

Eases Medicaid eligibility requirements for those with Autism.

Effective July 1, 2003



Senate Bill 286: Sex Offender Registration

Increases the penalty for a registered sex offender who fails to submit a new registration form after changing addresses. Requires the sex offender web site to be updated at least every seven days.

Effective date July 1, 2003



House Bill 1213: Insurance Scoring

Imposes several requirements on an insurer's use of credit information in the underwriting of personal property and casualty insurance. Makes a violation of the requirements an unfair and deceptive act in the business of insurance.

Effective date July 1, 2003



House Bill 2005: Property Tax Exemptions

This bill addresses property eligible for exemption for educational, literary, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes. It clarifies that the exemptions depend on use of property, and provides a reporting method to determine exemptions are applied equitably across the state.

Effective date July 1, 2003



Rep. Burton reads over important legislation during the 2003 session of the General Assembly.

Hoosier Rx

Hoosier Rx, Indiana's prescription drug program for low-income seniors, has recently changed formats. Instead of being issued a refund check after the prescription is purchased, a senior enrolled in the program can simply present his/her plan membership card at the retailer to receive the benefits.

Hoosier Rx covers all drugs that require prescriptions, as well as insulin. The changes to this program will be phased in over the next few months. Listed below are several of the prescription assistance programs currently being offered to Hoosiers.

Hoosier Rx

- Indiana's own discount prescription drug program.
- Provides low-income seniors with up to 50% savings on medications.
- A yearly benefit of \$1,000 for single recipients, and \$1,344 for married recipients.

For additional information please call (866) 267-4679

Pfizer for Living Share Card

- Designed to provide a bridge for a target group of Medicare beneficiaries until a Medicare prescription drug benefit is established.
- Seniors pay \$15 for up to a 30-day supply of Pfizer medicine.
- Convenient prescription refills at retail pharmacy.
- Free health education materials.

For additional information please call (800) 717-6005

Connection to Care

- Medical office-based program
- Provides nearly 30 Pfizer medications free of charge at the physician's request.

For additional information please call (800) 707-8990

Sharing the Care

- Pharmaceutical access program donates Pfizer medications to low-income individuals through federally funded community, migrant and homeless health centers across the country.
- Developed in partnership with the National Governors Association and the National Association of Community Health Centers.

For additional information please call (800) 984-1500

LillyAnswers Card

- Provides discounted medications for low-income Hoosiers (annual individual income less than \$18,000 annual household income less than \$24,000).
- Seniors pay \$12 for a 30-day supply of any Lilly drug.
- Prescriptions are filled at participating retail pharmacies.
- Patient education and disease management tools.

For additional information please call (877) RX-LILLY 795-4559